

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled.

2. (Currently amended) The method of de-icing according to claim 4, wherein the apparatus comprises a phase shifting transformer provided with a tap changer for adjusting the angular offset.

3. (Previously presented) The method of de-icing according to claim 2, wherein the apparatus comprises a capacitor in parallel with the phase shifting transformer.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method of de-icing ~~according to claim 1;~~ energized electric lines of an alternating current voltage distribution or transmission network comprising the steps of:
providing an apparatus capable of producing an adjustable angular offset between voltages at its terminals;
selecting segments of the energized electrical lines to be de-iced;
connecting the segments to form a loop by selectively operating circuit breakers of the network;
connecting the apparatus in series with the segments of the loop to be de-iced;
activating the apparatus;
adjusting the angular offset of the apparatus to impose an increase in current flowing in at least one of the segments of the loop, thus causing the de-icing of said at least one of the segments of the loop wherein the apparatus further comprises a circuit breaker and further comprising the steps of:
measuring a phase displacement at the terminals of the apparatus;
adjusting an internal angle of the apparatus to a same value of the phase displacement measured; and

operating the circuit breaker of the apparatus into a closed position.

5. (Previously presented) The method of de-icing according to claim 4, further comprising:

operating a line circuit breaker on one of the segments of the loop into an open position for concentrating charging current in the other segment of the loop.

6. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method of de-icing ~~according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~ energized electric lines of an alternating current voltage distribution or transmission network comprising the steps of:

providing an apparatus capable of producing an adjustable angular offset between voltages at its terminals;

selecting segments of the energized electrical lines to be de-iced;

connecting the segments to form a loop by selectively operating circuit breakers of the network;

connecting the apparatus in series with the segments of the loop to be de-iced;

activating the apparatus;

adjusting the angular offset of the apparatus to impose an increase in current flowing in at least one of the segments of the loop, thus causing the de-icing of said at least one of the segments of the loop;

adjusting an internal angle of the apparatus to a value of zeros;

operating a circuit breaker connected between the segments of the loop in a closed position to short-circuit the apparatus;

operating a line circuit breaker on one of the segments of the loop into an open position for concentrating a charging current in the other segment of the loop; and

operating the circuit breaker connected between the segments of the loop in an open position.

7.&8. Cancelled.

9. (Currently amended) The method of de-icing according to claim 4, wherein the apparatus is mobile and the distribution lines are connectable to a sectioning point by means of an interruptor having opposite terminals, the terminals of the apparatus being connected to the terminals of the interruptors, the interruptor being operated into an open position during de-icing.

10. Cancelled.

11. (Currently amended) The method of de-icing according to claim 4, wherein the apparatus is connected with the segments of the loop by an interrupting element, the apparatus being connected in circuit with the loop by operating the interrupting element.

12. (Previously presented) The method of de-icing according to claim 11, wherein the interrupting element comprises an interruptor.

13. (Previously presented) The method of de-icing according to claim 11, wherein the interrupting element comprises a circuit breaker.

14. & 15. Cancelled.

16. (New) The method of de-icing according to claim 4, wherein the apparatus is mobile and the distribution lines are connectable to a sectioning point by means of an interruptor having opposite terminals, the terminals of the apparatus being

connected to the terminals of the interruptors, the interruptor being operated into an open position during de-icing.

17. (New) The method of de-icing according to claim 6, wherein the apparatus is connected with the segments of the loop by an interrupting element, the apparatus being connected in circuit with the loop by operating the interrupting element.

18. (New) The method of de-icing according to claim 16, wherein the interrupting element comprises an interruptor.

19. (New) The method of de-icing according to claim 16, wherein the interrupting element comprises a circuit breaker.